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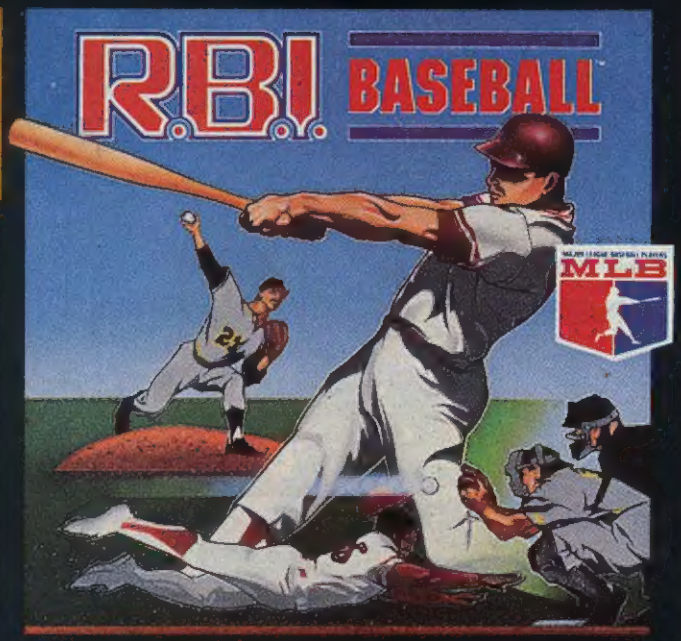

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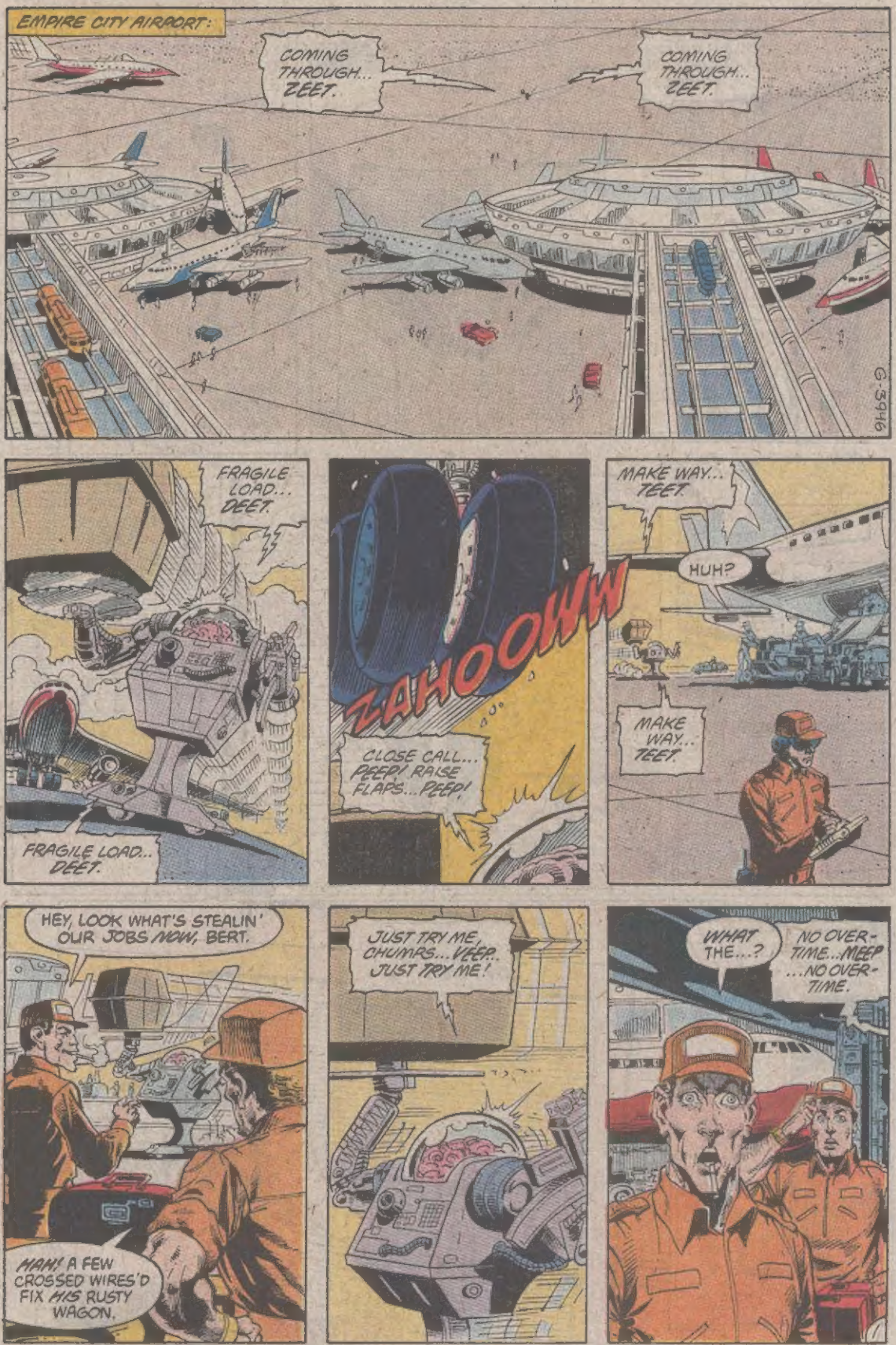
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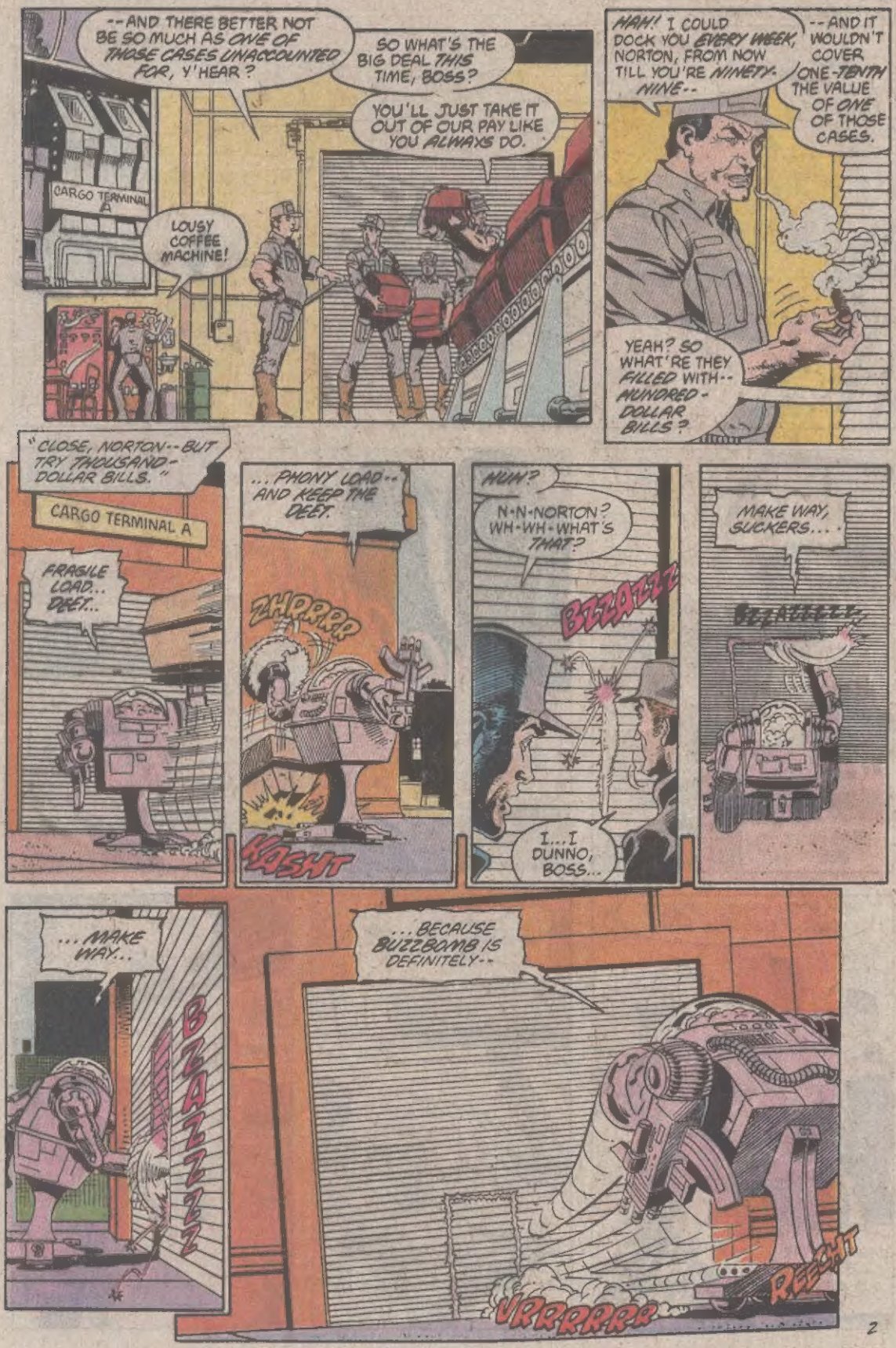
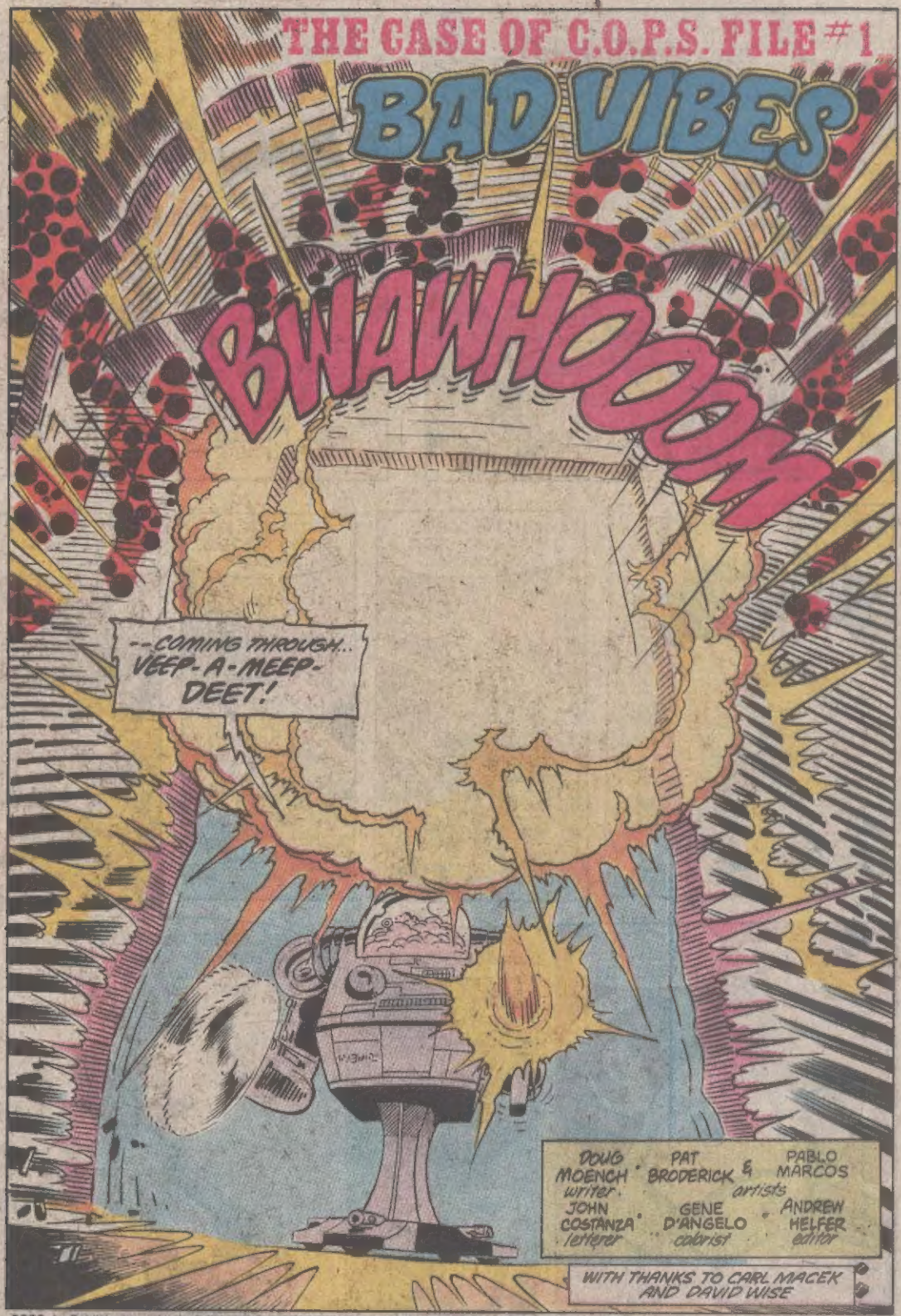
COMING THROUGH... ZEET.
COMING THROUGH... ZEET.
©·3946
FRAGILE LOAD... DEET.
FRAGILE LOAD... DEET.
ZAHOOWW
CLOSE CALL... PEEP! RAISE FLAPS... PEEP!
MAKE WAY... ZEET.
HUH?
MAKE WAY... ZEET.
HEY, LOOK WHAT'S STEALIN' OUR JOBS NOW, BERT.
MAH! A FEW CROSSED WIRES'D FIX HIS RUSTY WAGON.
JUST TRY ME, CHUMRS... VEEP. JUST TRY ME!
WHAT THE...?
NO OVER-TIME...MEEP ...NO OVER-TIME.


--AND THERE BETTER NOT BE SO MUCH AS ONE OF THOSE CASES UNACCOUNTED FOR, Y'HEAR?
SO WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL THIS TIME, BOSS?
YOU'LL JUST TAKE IT OUT OF OUR PAY LIKE YOU ALWAYS DO.
CARGO TERMINAL A
LOUSY COFFEE MACHINE!
HAH! I COULD DOCK YOU EVERY WEEK, NORTON, FROM NOW TILL YOU'RE NINETY-NINE--
--AND IT WOULDN'T COVER ONE-TENTH THE VALUE OF ONE OF THOSE CASES.
YEAH? SO WHAT'RE THEY FILLED WITH-- HUNDRED-DOLLAR BILLS?
"CLOSE, NORTON--BUT TRY THOUSAND-DOLLAR BILLS."
CARGO TERMINAL A
FRAGILE LOAD... DEET..
...PHONY LOAD-- AND KEEP THE DEET.
ZHRRRR
KOSHT
HUH?
N-N-NORTON? WH-WH-WHAT'S THAT?
BZZAZZ
I...I DUNNO, BOSS...
MAKE WAY, SUCKERS...
...MAKE WAY...
BZZAZZZZ
...BECAUSE BUZZBOMB IS DEFINITELY--
VRRRRRR
REECHT



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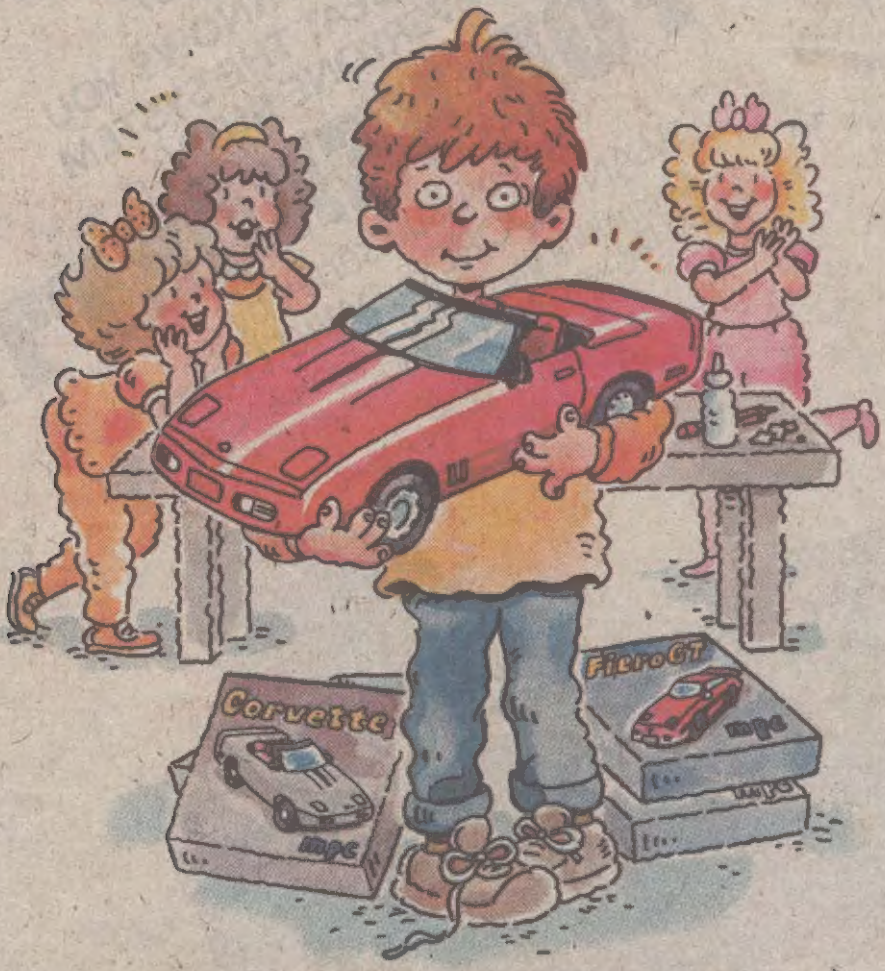
RUN!!
YAAHHHH
EEEYAAIIEEE!
LEMME OUTTA HERE!!
THAT'S RIGHT-- FLEE, YOU MEAT-HEADS, CUZ IT'S TIME TO--
FRUHHH
--FLAME ON!
WHOOOM
NOW THE COFFEE COMES OUT... COLD, OF COURSE...
... AND YET... THE ACRID STENCH OF SMOKE?
Ahem! WE MAY HAVE MONEY TO BURN...
...BUT IF WE BURN IT, BUZZBOMB--
--THEN WE HAVE NO MONEY!
UH, SORRY, DOC-- BUT NOT TO WORRY.
FIRE EXTINGUISHER ON.
YES, YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT, BUZZBOMB, MY FAITHFUL ROBOT COMPANION--EVEN SLIGHTLY SCORCHED. THIS CAPER MUST BE JUDGED A SUCCESS!
NOW FIND A BAG FOR THE CASH!
PAT PAT PAT
SURE THING, DOC... VREET.
4

BODY BUILDER



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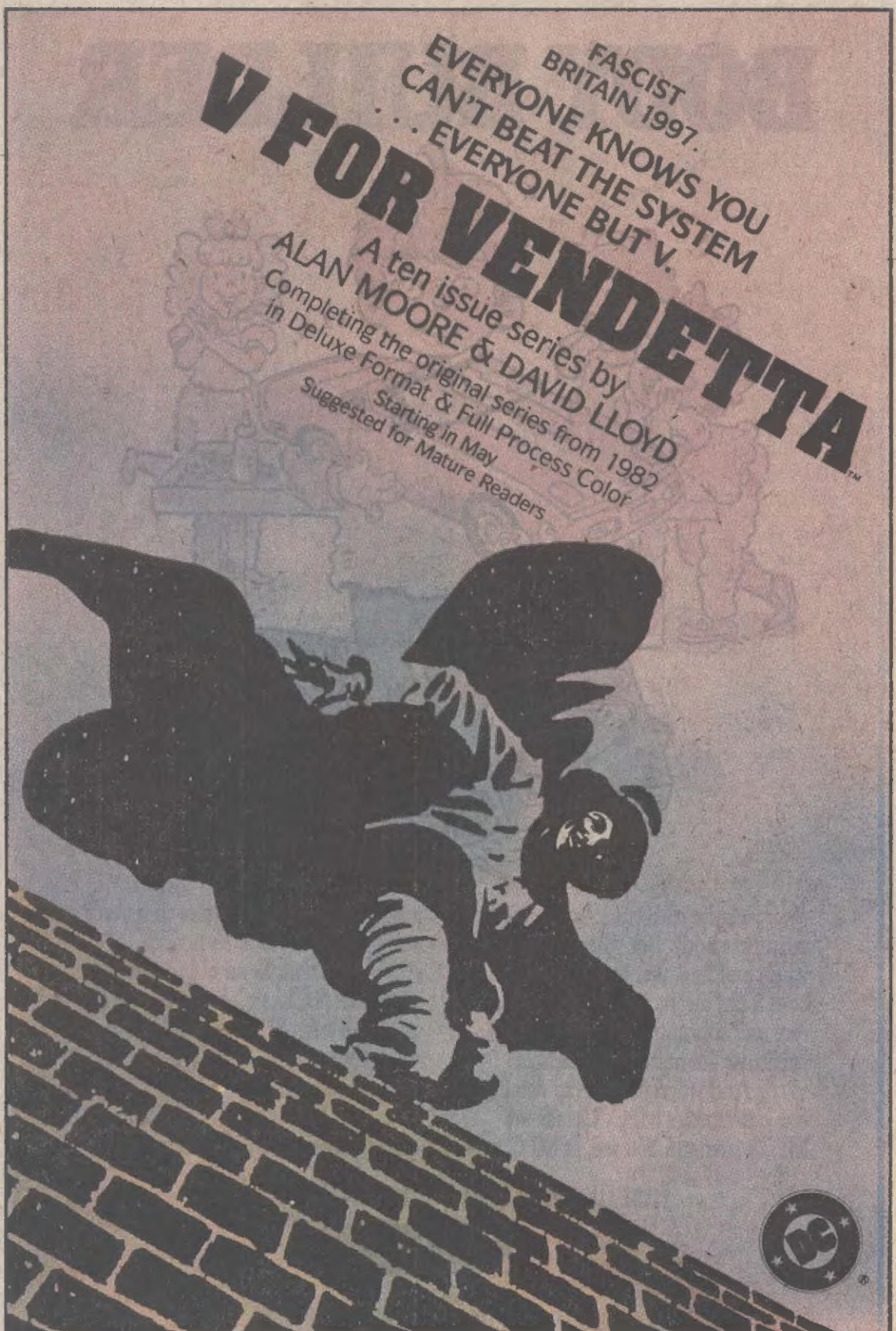
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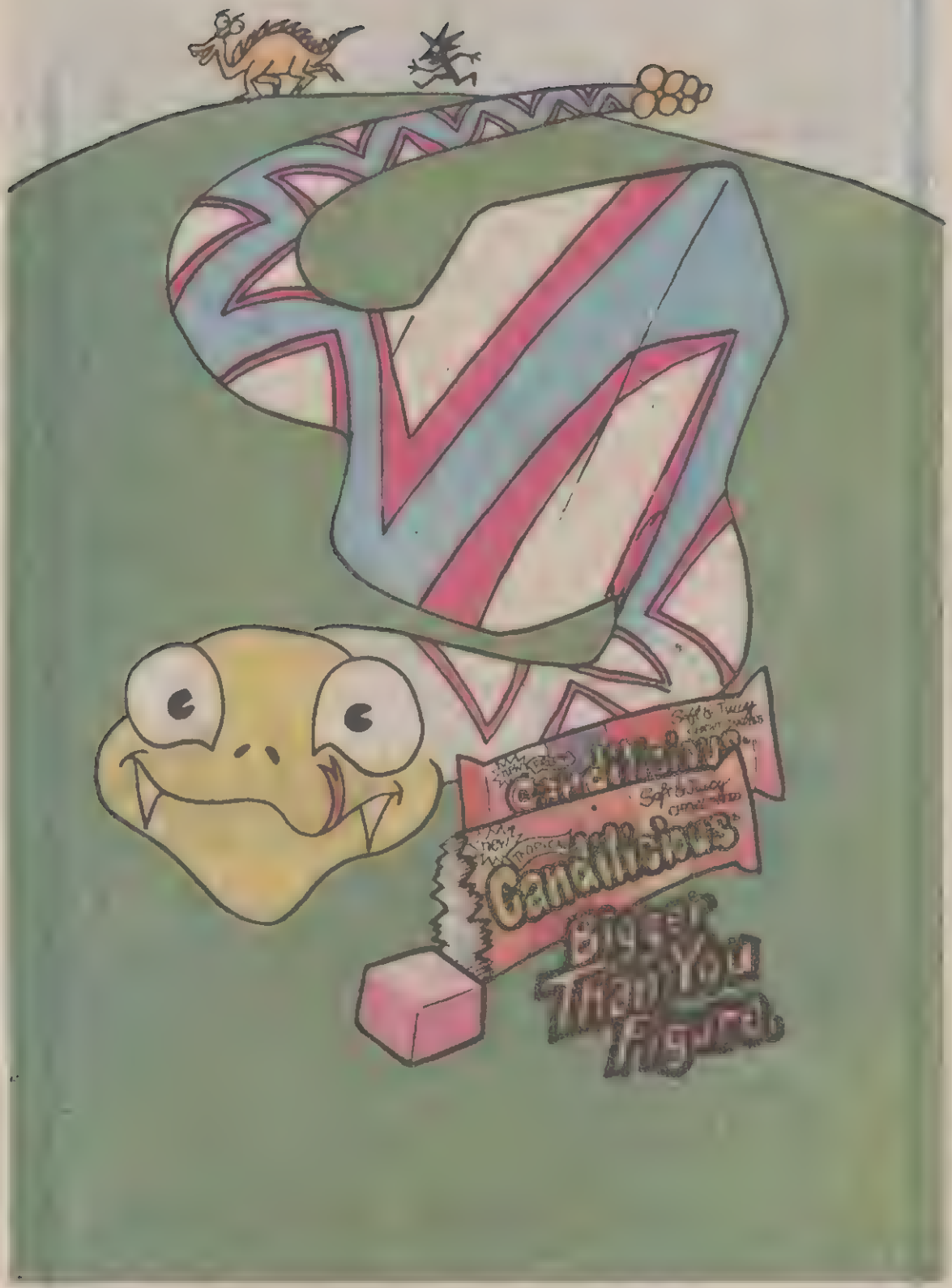
YES, INDEED, BUZZBOMB! I KNEW MY LATEST BRAINSTORM WOULD BEAR FRUIT OF HIGH DENOMINATION!
NOW TRUNDLE ALONG-- OUR GETAWAY CAR IS WAITING, CUNNINGLY CAMOUFLAGED AS AN ARMORED TRUCK!
GEE, DOC, THIS SURE IS A LOT OF CASH... ZEEP.
QUITE SO, MY DEAR BUZZBOMB, AND I THINK WE HAVE FINALLY OBTAINED RESULTS IMPRESSIVE ENOUGH TO IMPRESS NONE OTHER THAN--
"--THE BIG BOSS."
I'M AFRAID SCRATCH IS SHEDDING AGAIN, MR. BOSS.
SO BRUSH ME OFF, SQUEAKY KLEEN-- THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE PAID FOR.
WEASELS CAN'T HELP WHAT THEIR HAIRS DO-- NOT EVEN HALF-BIONIC WEASELS.
AS YOU SAY, MR. BOSS.
NOW THEN... TELL ME AGAIN, MS DEMEANOR, ABOUT THIS "DR. BADVIBES" CHARACTER WHO'S ALWAYS BOTHERIN' ME.
HE'S AN INVENTOR, BIG BOSS-- REAL NAME, PERCY KRONIAL-- QUITE MAD, BUT HE COULD PROVE USEFUL.
ARE YOU SAYING, MS DEMEANOR, THAT WE MIGHT WANT THIS CREEP IN OUR GANG?
SKULL
PROVIDED HE PROVES HIMSELF, BIG BOSS.
AFTER ALL, THERE IS BUT A THIN LINE BETWEEN GENIUS AND INSANITY-- AND THE LINE USUALLY LEADS STRAIGHT TO CRIMINALITY AND ATROCITY.
5

HE'S HERE, BIG BOSS.
HMMMMM...
ATROCITY, EH?
BAD IS GOOD
ALL RIGHT, BERSERKO... SHOW THE WEIRDO IN.
WE'RE COMING... NNNGH... NNNGHHH...
FOOOMPH
WHAT THE--?
CASH!
TA-DAAA! IMPRESSED NOW, BIG BOSS?
I... UH... JUST MIGHT HAVE A SLOT OPEN FOR YOU IN MY ORGANIZATION, BADVIBES... STRICTLY ON A...UH...TRIAL BASIS, YOU UNDERSTAND...
OF COURSE, BIG BOSS-- TRY AWAY!
GOBS O'CASH!
YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO BUILD SOME KIND OF GIZMO FOR ME?
WITH THE INVENTION I HAVE IN MIND, BIG BOSS, THE POLICE WON'T STAND A CHANCE--WHILE WE PICK EMPIRE CITY CLEAN!
ALL RIGHT, BADVIBES-- CONSIDER YOURSELF STAKED FOR WHATEVER YOU NEED TO BUILD THE THING--

--AND YOU CAN TAKE THE DOUGH FROM THIS PILE RIGHT HERE.
I KNEW YOU'D SAY THAT, BIG BOSS!
AND TO CELEBRATE WHILE BADVIBES GETS TO WORK, THE REST OF YOU ARE GOING TO LAUNCH A CRIMEWAVE! A SPREE THE LIKES OF WHICH THIS TOWN AIN'T NEVER SEEN!
IN FACT, A VERITABLE TIDAL WAVE OF CRIME!
UH YEAH, SURE, BIG BOSS.. BUT WHAT KIND OF CRIMEWAVE?
MOTHER OF MERCY... WHAT AN IDIOT
ALL RIGHT; EYES OFF THAT LOOT AND FACE FRONT! IF I HAVTA SPELL IT OUT, I WILL!
MS DEMEANOR, I'VE GOT AN ITCHING FOR SOME ICE!
CONSIDER IT SCRATCHED, BIG BOSS!
BERSERKO, I NEED A NEW COAT!
YER ALREADY WARM, BIG BOSS!
TURBO TU-TONE, I'VE BEEN THINKING OF STARTING A COIN COLLECTION!
PUT YER MIND AT EASE, BIG BOSS!
MIRAGE, SCRATCH COULD USE A NEW LEASH!
I'LL SELECT A NICE ONE, BIG BOSS
KRUSHER, WE NEED A NEW TABLE -- A LOUIS XVI WILL DO!
YOU GOT IT, BOSS!
BUTTONS McBOOM-BOOM, YOU'LL STAY HERE AS USUAL TO GUARD MY BODY, AND ALSO TO KEEP AN EYE ON SQUEAKY KLEEN -- SEE HE DON'T TRY TO TWIST OFF SCRATCH'S HEAD AGAIN.
BUT I DIDN'T--
DONE, BIG BOSS.
ALL RIGHT-- GET GOING
7

MIDNIGHT: MS DEMEANOR.
BEEP!
BEEP!
FINE JEWELRY
HOT ICE COMING UP!
12:01 A.M: BERSERKO.
BETTER TAKE TWO FOR SQUEAKY TO STITCH TOGETHER--
--IF THEY'RE GONNA FIT THE BOSS.
12:02 A.M: TURBO TU-TONE.
AH LOOKS LIKE A RARE COIN SHOP. RIGHT--
KERASH!!
--HERE
HYEH HYEH HYEH HYEH HYEH HYEH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12:03 AM: MIRAGE.
YES... RIGHT THERE ON SLEEPING BEAUTY'S DRESSER...
... A SINGLE STRAND OF DIAMONDS
AND AS WEASEL-LEASHES GO... PERFECT
12:04 AM
KEESHH
ROCK KRUSHER
HMM-- ALL OF A SUDDEN, I JUST REALIZED...
CAN'T REMEMBER IF THE BOSS SAID LOUIS XIV OR LOUIS XV.
SO HE'LL JUST HAVTA TAKE BOTH OF 'EM AN' LIKE IT.

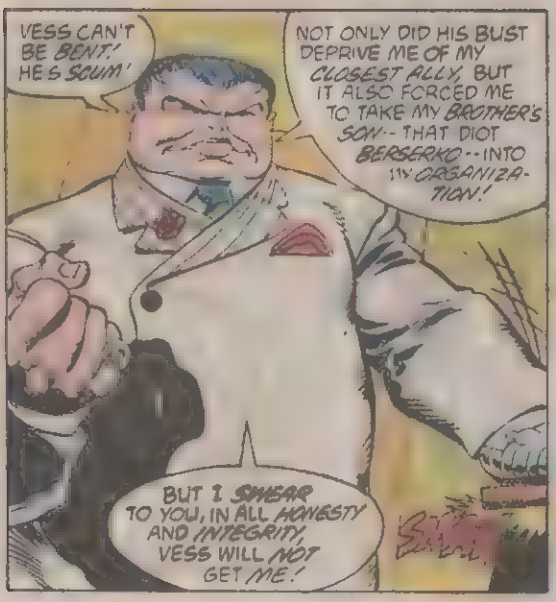
12:32 AM BIG BOSS
YOU'VE DONE WELL, ALL OF YOU.. SO WELL THAT I'M NOT EVEN SURE WE NEED THIS BADVIBES CHARACTER
BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, WE MIGHT AS WELL WAIT... TO SEE JUST EXACTLY HOW HIS INSANE GENIUS CROSSES THAT LINE... INTO ATROCITY.
HAW'R HAW'R HAWR.
NOON MAYOR DAVIS.
ON YOUR TOES, O'MALLEY.. THIS IS A PLANE FROM WASHINGTON, YOU KNOW
YES, SIR.
.. WITH TWO WINGS LIKE ANY OTHER.
NOW DON'T START, O'MALLEY! WE NEED THIS FEDERAL YAHOO, SO JUST SWALLOW YOUR DUMB COP PRIDE AND --
AH! WELCOME TO EMPIRE CITY, SPECIAL AGENT VESS!
NO SKYWRITING TO ADVERTISE MY ARRIVAL?
SKYWRI..? OH UH AHEM
I'M MAYOR DONALD DAVIS, MR VESS, AND I. UH.. I UNDERSTAND YOU'VE BEEN SENT TO US BECAUSE YOU'VE HAD EXPERIENCE WITH BIG BOSS?
INTIMATE EXPERIENCE, MR MAYOR -- WITH THE THING CLOSEST TO HIM.
10

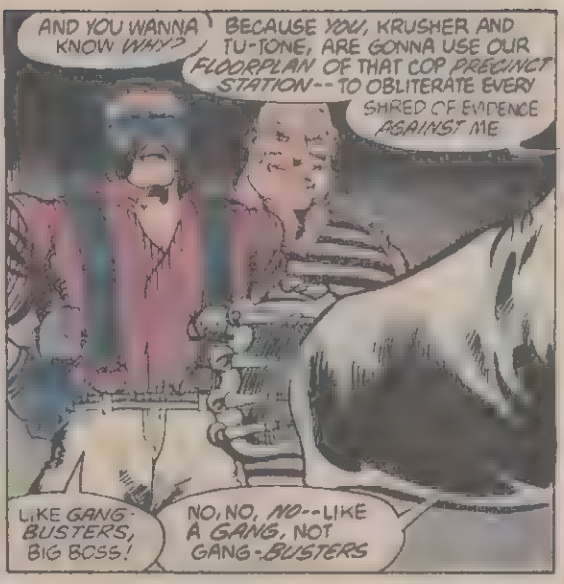
I.. AH.. I'M NOT QUITE SURE I UNDERSTA--
NOW WHO'S THIS?
--OH, UH, PERMIT ME TO INTRODUCE OFFICER P.J. O'MALLEY.
O'MALLEY WILL FUNCTION AS YOUR INTERFACE WITH OUR LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENT.
I PREFER THE TERM LIAISON, MR. VESS--BUT IN ANY CASE, WHAT THE MAYOR MEANS IS THAT I'M HERE TO SHOW YOU AROUND
NOW, THE WHOLE THING SEEMED TO START RIGHT HERE AT THE AIRPORT, SIR-- OVER AT CARGO TERMINAL A--IF YOU'D CARE TO CHECK IT OUT?
BY ALL MEANS, O'MALLEY.
BUT... BUT.. I... UH.
OH WELL, SINCE HE'S ALREADY IN--
--I GUESS HE DOESN'T NEED A KEY
YOU DON'T WASTE MUCH TIME, O'MALLEY
NOT IN THE MIDDLE OF CRIME SPREES, SIR, NO, SIR.
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A COP?
SINCE I WAS OLD ENOUGH, SIR, JUST LIKE MY FATHER, AND HIS FATHER.
THEN YOU'RE ONE OF A RARE BREED THESE DAYS. STILL FOLLOWING THE OLD COP TRADITION...
... AND I'LL BET YOUR FATHER WOULDN'T HAVE APPRECIATED A FEDERAL AGENT LIKE ME BUTTING INTO YOUR CITY'S AFFAIRS.
OUR CITY'S TROUBLES, MR. VESS, AND YOU'RE RIGHT--EXCEPT THERE'S NEVER BEEN A FEDERAL AGENT LIKE YOU.
AND HOW DO YOU--
I RESEARCH, SIR.

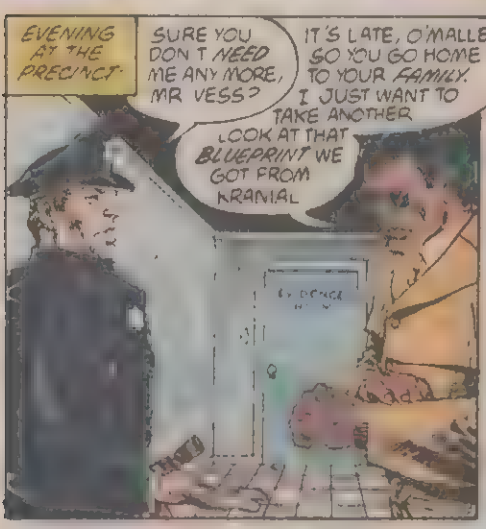
MY FILE IS SECRET, O'MALLEY. AND CANNOT BE ACCESSED BY ANY COMPUTER NETWORK.
WHICH IS WHY I USED THE NEWSPAPER MORGUES, SIR
BESIDES, I STAY AWAY FROM COMPUTERS EVERY CHANCE I GET.
THEN YOU DO LIKE THE OLD-FASHIONED TRADITIONS, O'MALLEY.. BUT DON'T SELL ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY COMPLETELY SHORT
IT DOES HAVE ITS PLACE YOU KNOW
POLICE LINE
THIS LITTLE DEVICE, FOR EXAMPLE, IS A PROTOTYPE OF SOMETHING THE MILITARY IS WORKING ON...
IT DETECTS AND ANALYZES TRACE ELEMENTS.
DEET DEET DEET
SUCH AS RESIDUE LEFT BY THE BLADES THAT CUT THROUGH THIS OUTER WALL
HMMM
WELL, THAT'S RARE ENOUGH TO NARROW IT DOWN. ANYWAY.
IF YOU'D CARE TO TAKE ME TO YOUR PRECINCT, O'MALLEY, PERHAPS WE CAN AT LEAST TRACK DOWN THE SOURCE OF THAT ROBOT'S MANUFACTURE
BY ALL MEANS, MR. VESS.. AND IT SEEMS YOU DON'T WASTE TIME, EITHER.
NOW THAT YOUR MAYOR'S OUT OF OUR HAIR... WHY BE FRIVOLOUS?
12

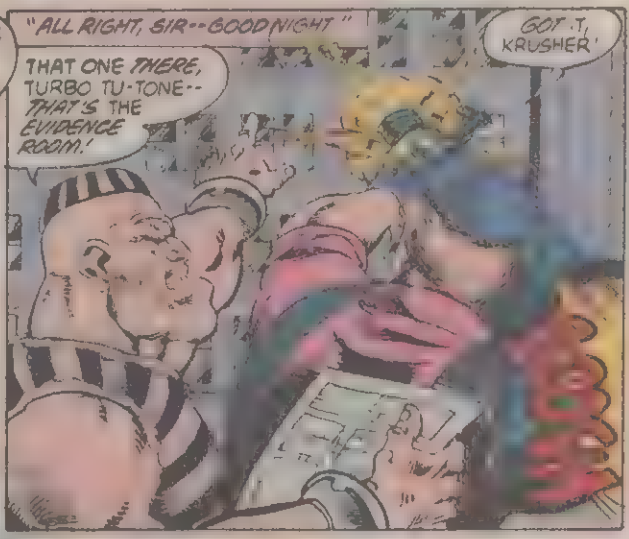
THE 64TH PRECINCT, COMMONLY KNOWN AS "PURGATORY".
PRECISELY WHAT I'D EXPECT OF YOUR PRECINCT, O'MALLEY...
...RIGHT DOWN TO THE OLD-FASHIONED AND AMPLY SCARRED WOODEN DESKS
BUDGET PLAYS SOME PART IN THE DECOR SIR.
HMM.. AND PERHAPS THAT SHOULD CHANGE.
SIR--?
JUST THINKING OUT LOUD, O'MALLEY...
...BUT I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU'VE KEPT ONE CORNER UP TO DATE.
OH I'VE ALWAYS AGREED THAT TECHNOLOGY HAS ITS PLACE, SIR-- BUT IT'S AS FAR FROM THIS DESK AS POSSIBLE.
P.J.--!
I THINK I'VE GOT IT, P J ! THAT SILESIUM STUFF IS RARE! ONLY ONE QUANTITY PURCHASE IN THE LAST NINE MONTHS--BY A DR PERCY KRANIAL!
GOOD WORK, DONNY! GIVE US HIS ADDRESS..
"--AND WE'LL GO VISIT THE MAN"
DR PERCY KRANIAL INVENTOR
YES, I HAVE DESIGNED AND MANUFACTURED CERTAIN ROBOTS WITH SILESIUM BUZZSAW BLADES-- SUCH AS MY OWN PERSONAL ROBOT, BUZZSAW!!--
--BUT STRICTLY FOR CONSTRUCTION APPLICATIONS.
SURE YOU DON'T MEAN DEMOLITION APPLICATIONS DR. KRANIAL?
I'VE DONE NOTHING WRONG!
I'M AN INVENTOR AND I KNOW MY RIGHTS! WHAT OTHERS MAY DO WITH MY INVENTIONS IS NOT MY RESPONSIBILITY!

SHOULD THE INVENTOR OF THE BALLPEEN HAMMER BE CONDEMNED SIMPLY BECAUSE SOMEONE AT SOME TIME USED A BALLPEEN HAMMER TO CRUSH SOMEONE ELSE'S SKULL?!
I SUPPOSE NOT, DR. KRANIAL, BUT TELL ME... WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON RIGHT NOW?
R-R-RIGHT NOW--? OH, NOTHING NOTHING-- JUST A LITTLE SOMETHING FOR MY OWN AMUSEMENT-- L-LIKE A H-HOBBY, YOU SEE...
M-HM. THEN YOU DON'T MIND IF I TAKE THIS BLUEPRINT FOR EVIDENCE, DO YOU?
M-M-MIND--? WHY SHOULD I MIND? OH COURSE NOT! I'VE NOTHING TO HIDE!
G-G-G-GO RIGHT AHEAD!
THEN THANKS FOR YOUR COOPERATION, KRANIAL-- WE'LL BE IN TOUCH.
VESS! I HATE THAT FED!
HEY, BEFORE YA BLOW A VEIN, BIG BOSS, WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?
THE "BIG DEAL," KRUSHER IS SPECIAL FEDERAL AGENT BALDWIN P VESS!
YEARS AGO, VESS NAILED THE CRIME BOSS OF NEW YORK CITY.
"THAT CRIME BOSS WAS PROMPTLY SENT UP THE RIVER...
"THAT CRIME BOSS PROMPTLY DIED IN PRISON..."
..AND THAT CRIME BOSS... WAS... M-MY TWIN B-BROTHER..
GEE, NOW I GET IT, BIG BOSS!
AND HERE I WAS ALWAYS THINKIN YOU KEPT A PICTURE OF YOURSELF ON YOUR DESK!
SNIF!

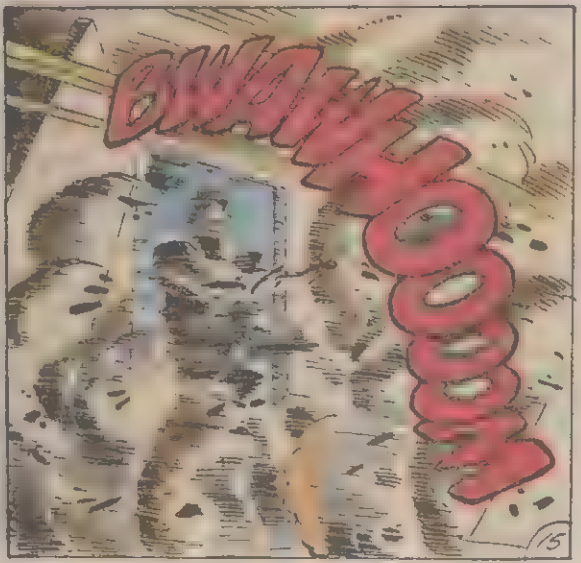

VESS CAN'T BE BENT! HE'S SCUM!
NOT ONLY DID HIS BUST DEPRIVE ME OF MY CLOSEST ALLY, BUT IT ALSO FORCED ME TO TAKE MY BROTHER'S SON -- THAT DIOT BERSERKO -- INTO MY ORGANIZATION!
BUT I SWEAR TO YOU, IN ALL HONESTY AND INTEGRITY, VESS WILL NOT GET ME!


AND YOU WANNA KNOW WHY?
BECAUSE YOU, KRUSHER AND TU-TONE, ARE GONNA USE OUR FLOORPLAN OF THAT COP PRECINCT STATION -- TO OBLITERATE EVERY SHRED OF EVIDENCE AGAINST ME
LIKE GANG BUSTERS, BIG BOSS!
NO, NO, NO -- LIKE A GANG, NOT GANG-BUSTERS

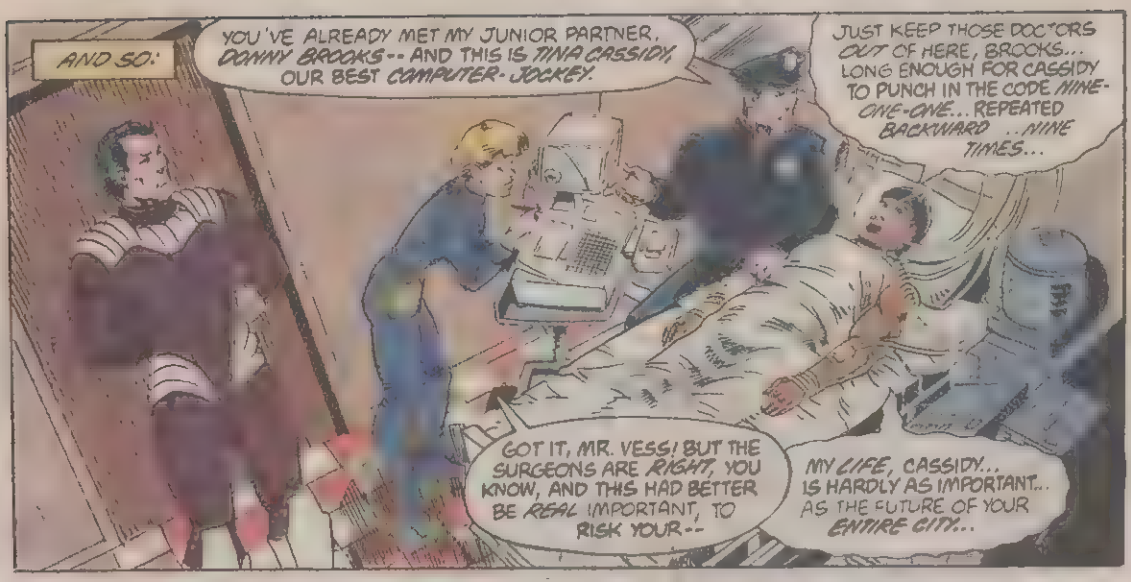

EVENING AT THE PRECINCT
SURE YOU DON'T NEED ME ANY MORE, MR VESS?
IT'S LATE, O'MALLEY, SO YOU GO HOME TO YOUR FAMILY. I JUST WANT TO TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT THAT BLUEPRINT WE GOT FROM KRANIAL

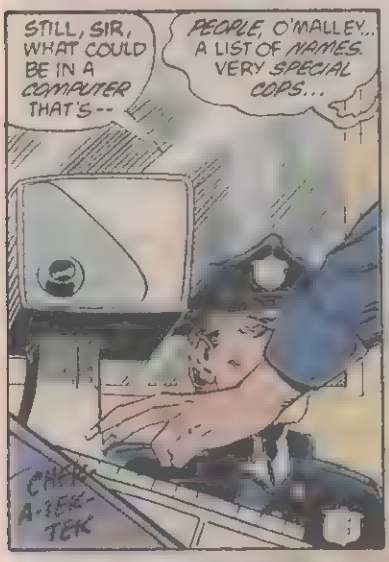

"ALL RIGHT, SIR -- GOOD NIGHT"
GOT IT, KRUSHER!
THAT ONE THERE, TURBO TU-TONE -- THAT'S THE EVIDENCE ROOM!

EH?
WHAT WAS --


BWAHHOOOM

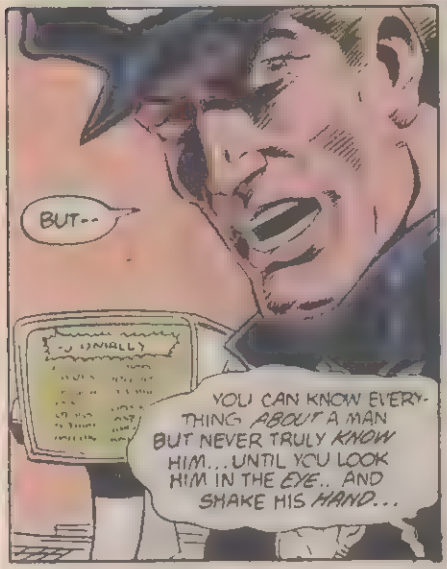
YESSSSSSSSSS!!
AN HOUR LATER, AT THE HOSPITAL:
-- SAVED HIS LIFE, OFFICER O'MALLEY, BUT HE'S HARDLY OUT OF DANGER
THAT EXPLOSION DAMAGED SEVENTY PERCENT OF HIS BODY, AND IT WILL HAVE TO BE REPLACED...
"HE'S ON LIFE-SUPPORT RIGHT NOW, BUT THE CYBER-SURGEONS WANT TO OPERATE IMMEDIATELY."
LIKE HELL YOU'RE GOING TO OPERATE, DOCTOR - NOT YET... NOT UNTIL YOU TELL O'MALLEY OUT IN THE HALL.. THAT I HATE TO DO IT TO HIM...
...BUT HE'S GOT TO GET A POLICE-SYSTEM COMPUTER DOWN HERE... NOW.
ABSOLUTELY NOT! I WON'T COUNTENANCE ANY SUCH DELAY IN A CRUCIAL SITUATION LIKE--
YOUR LASER-SCALPEL DOESN'T TOUCH ONE INCH OF MY MANGLED BODY, DOCTOR:.. UNTIL I SAY SO.
NOW... DO IT!
TELL... O'MALLEY!

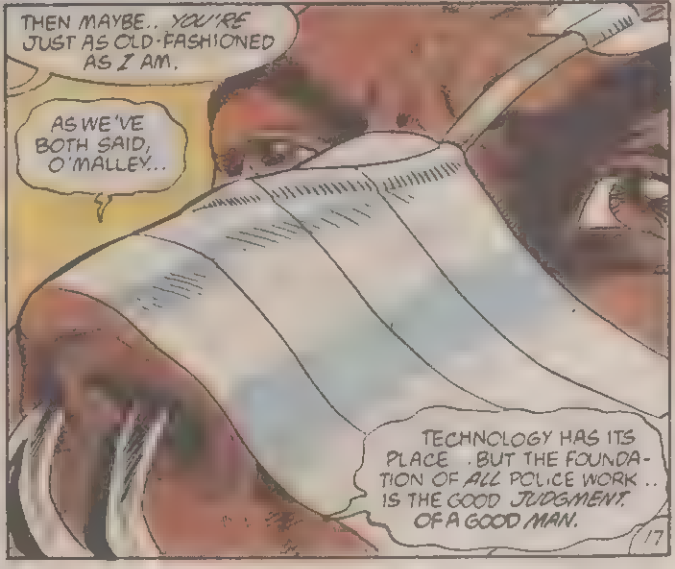

AND SO:
YOU'VE ALREADY MET MY JUNIOR PARTNER, DONNY BROOKS -- AND THIS IS TINA CASSIDY, OUR BEST COMPUTER-JOCKEY.
JUST KEEP THOSE DOCTORS OUT OF HERE, BROOKS... LONG ENOUGH FOR CASSIDY TO PUNCH IN THE CODE NINE-ONE-ONE... REPEATED BACKWARD ...NINE TIMES...
GOT IT, MR. VESS! BUT THE SURGEONS ARE RIGHT, YOU KNOW, AND THIS HAD BETTER BE REAL IMPORTANT, TO RISK YOUR--
MY LIFE, CASSIDY... IS HARDLY AS IMPORTANT... AS THE FUTURE OF YOUR ENTIRE CITY...


STILL, SIR, WHAT COULD BE IN A COMPUTER THAT'S --
PEOPLE, O'MALLEY... A LIST OF NAMES. VERY SPECIAL COPS...
CHIP A-SEE-TEK

...THE BEST IN HIS OR HER FIELD...
DONE-- AND THE FIRST NAME IS

...P.J. O'MALLEY?!
ME--?! AND THAT'S MY COMPLETE RECORD! BUT... YOU ACTED LIKE YOU DIDN'T EVEN KNOW ME, VESS!
I. DIDN'T...


BUT--
O'MALLEY
YOU CAN KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT A MAN BUT NEVER TRULY KNOW HIM... UNTIL YOU LOOK HIM IN THE EYE.. AND SHAKE HIS HAND...


THEN MAYBE.. YOU'RE JUST AS OLD-FASHIONED AS I AM.
AS WE'VE BOTH SAID, O'MALLEY..
TECHNOLOGY HAS ITS PLACE. BUT THE FOUNDATION OF ALL POLICE WORK.. IS THE GOOD JUDGMENT OF A GOOD MAN.

THAT'S IT--EIGHT MORE NAMES PRINTING OUT NOW.
THIS IS QUITE ENOUGH, MR. VESS! WE SIMPLY CAN'T WAIT ANY LONGER OR--
I'M READY LET THEM IN
OH?
NOW GET GOING, O'MALLEY. LOOK INTO THEIR EYES FOR ME. AND USE YOUR.. GOOD JUDGMENT
Y-YEAH. BREAK A LEG, VESS
PJ?
YEAH. DONNY?
I..UH. I DON'T SUPPOSE. MY NAME'S ON THAT PRINT-OUT. ?
DONNY, YOU'VE DONE WELL YOUR FIRST YEAR... MADE SOME SOLID BUSTS BUT YOU'RE STILL A ROOKIE, KID.
GIVE YOURSELF SOME TIME, SOME EXPERIENCE. BEFORE MAKING A LIST LIKE THIS
YEAH, SURE, P.J.... BUT IF YOU COULD MAYBE PUT IN A GOOD WORD FOR ME ?
SORRY, KID, BUT I'M SERVING AS NOTHING MORE THAN B.P VESS' LONG RIGHT ARM
THIS IS HIS OPERATION ALL THE WAY.. AND SOMETHING TELLS ME
"...IT'S GOING TO BE ONE HELL OF AN OPERATION"

PHILADELPHIA
YEAH, THAT'S COLT HOWARDS--UP AT THE END OF THE TRAINING GAUNTLET, READY TO START A RUN...
ALL RIGHT
GO!
"COLT'S A REAL HARD-NOSE--EVERYTHING BY THE BOOK...
"...BUT HE'S THE BEST WE GOT
"MATTER OF FACT, YEP, MISTER SAM COLT HOWARDS IS THE CLOSEST THING TO A--
"--TO A ONE-MAN S.W.A.T. TEAM"
YES HE'LL DO..
. IF I LIKE THE LOOK IN HIS EYES
YOU SAID WHAT?
WELL, FELLA--I'D SAY THAT'S A RECORD TIME
TELL HIM . I'D LIKE TO SHAKE HIS HAND

MIAMI
--DEVELOPED A SLIGHT PROBLEM UP HERE GENTLEMEN
WE TOLD YOU IT STILL HAD SOME BUGS, SIKORSKY-- THAT'S THE REASON FOR THIS TEST FLIGHT.
ROGER-- BUT THE PROBLEM IS FULL LOSS OF ALTITUDE CONTROL
WHAT?! THEN BAIL OUT, SIKORSKY--FAST!
NO, ROGER, GENTLEMEN-- NOT WHILE I'M ON A COLLISION COURSE WITH ALL THAT EXPENSIVE TESTING EQUIPMENT OF YOURS.
OUR TESTING EQUIPMENT?! WHAT ABOUT US?!
AND NOT WHILE I'VE STILL GOT--
--LATERAL CONTROL.
SHOOT!
HNH
SORRY I SCRATCHED IT, GENTLEMEN, BUT IT DOES NEED MORE WORK
SHOOOSH
SKRRRRR
LANDING GEAR WOULDN'T POP DOWN, EITHER.
D-D-DID YOU SEE WH-WHAT HE JUST DID?! HE SAVED OUR LIVES!
AND HE COULDN'T HAVE PARKED IT BACK IN THE HANGAR ANY NEATER IF HE'D HAD FULL CONTROL!
HUGH S SIKORSKY? I'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU.

CHICAGO
POL
ALL RIGHT, MAX-- SEND 'EM FORWARD-- RIOT SPEED
RIGHT, STAN-- HERE THEY COME
BURN, BABY.. ZEET.. BURN!
BWHM
PCHOONK
PCHOONK
PCHOONK
KRASH
SPLUTTER
NOT A BAD RUN, MAX, BUT SHE'S STILL HITTING THE ROBOTS TOO HARD-- NEEDS SOME FINE-TUNING FOR GREATER SENSITIVITY TO MY HANDGRIP.
I DESIGNED THE "MULE" TO STOP A TRUCK IF IT HAS TO, BUT SINCE IT'S PRIMARILY FOR CROWD CONTROL, I DON'T WANT IT CRUSHING BONES.
I'LL GET ON IT PRONTO, STAN. MEANTIME THERE'S A GUY TO SEE YOU--
DIRECT FROM EMPIRE CITY, STANLEY BACH.
THE NAME'S O'MALLEY...AND A SENSITIVE GUY LIKE YOU, BACH, MUST FIND THIS CITY MIGHTY WINDY IN THE WINTER.
EVER CONSIDER A TRANSFER?

TEXAS:
ALL RIGHT, MAKE THEIR MOVES .. IN RANDOM SEQUENCE THIS TIME..
YOU GOT IT, SHERIFF.
KLATCH
ATCH
ATCH
ATCH
ATCH
NOW WHUT WAS IT YOU WANTED, STRANGER ?
UH. . ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE WALKER CALHOUN?
AYEP. WHY?
WELL... YOU MISSED ALL FIVE TARGETS
TAKE A CLOSER LOOK, STRANGER.
SWAP
SWAP
... AT THE TIPS O' THEIR GUN BARRELS
OH.
I... UH.. SEE WHAT YOU MEAN. . AND TELL ME, SHERIFF CALHOUN.
YOU THINK A COWBOY LIKE YOU COULD EVER MAKE PEACE BACK EAST?
12

LOS ANGELES
PULL OVER! PULL OVER AT ONCE!
SEEMS HE'S IN TOO MUCH OF A HURRY TO LISTEN, BOYS!
BUT MAYBE I CAN GET HIS ATTENTION!
WH-WH-WHAT THE--?!
PULL IT TO A SLOW AND STEADY STOP ON THE SHOULDER..
--AND EMERGE FROM YOUR VEHICLE WITH BOTH HANDS BEHIND YOUR HEAD.
Y-Y-YEEPS.
DIDN'T I TELL YOU, O'MALLEY? DAVE HARLSON IS THE BEST CYCLE TROOPER ON THE WHOLE HIGHWAY PATROL!
YOU TOLD ME-- AND YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE IMPRESSED BY HIS RECORD AND SKILLS.
OH? WHO ELSE?
SPREAD!
EVER HEAR OF FEDERAL AGENT B.P. VESS?
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST! YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT...
VESS--? WHO HASN'T?
13

PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND
ACTION, BLITZ!
NOW--WHY WOULD B.P. VESS NEED A K-9 OFFICER?
SAME REASONS YOU'RE NEEDED HERE-- BUT ON A HIGHER LEVEL
I MIGHT BE TEMPTED, O'MALLEY, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING YOU SHOULD KNOW...
WHAT'S THAT?
BLITZ HERE MAY BE CYBERNETIC, BUT HE'S NOT MY PET.
OH?
HE'S MY PARTNER-- AND HE'S MY FRIEND. WHERE I GO, BLITZ GOES
I SEE
WELL, I THINK YOU'LL FIND THAT AGENT VESS REWARDS SUCH LOYALTY, AND WE WOULDN'T ASK YOU TO JOIN UNDER ANY OTHER TERMS..
...PROVIDED BLITZ IS HOUSE-TRAINED, ANYWAY.
OH, HE'S A REAL GOOD DOG IN THAT RESPECT...
RELEASE, BLITZ!
... BUT HE DOES SET OFF HIS SIREN WHENEVER HE HAS TO GO OUT.
AFTER YOUR NAME, I'LL BELIEVE ANYTHING.
SO WHAT'S SO HARD TO BELIEVE, O'MALLEY, ABOUT REX POINTER?

AND, BACK IN EMPIRE CITY:
GOT A MESSAGE FROM LOUIE FOR DA BIG BOSS--VERY HOT.
I'LL TAKE IT
UH-UH, BERSERKO..
TO BE HAND-DELIVERED ONLY, PERSONALLY TO DA BIG B--
SO I'M HIS NEPHEW BY BLOOD, AIN'T I? B'SIDES, MY HAND'S PROBABLY CLEANER THAN YOURS.
AWRIGHT BERSERKO, BUT JUST SEE BIG BOSS GETS IT--NOW
ME NURSE GIRLFREND TELLS ME VESS IS STILL KICKIN IN DE HOSPITOLL. GRAB YORE AMPUL HINEKAWTERS AND HOLD TITE.
LOUIE
SAY, DIS IS MY BIG CHANCE I BEEN WAITIN' FOR--NOT ONLY TO TAKE SOME EE-NISH-EE-TIVE AN' SURPRISE UNCLE BOSS, BUT ALSO TO CULTIVATE SOME LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE...
.. FOR DAT INEVITABLE DAY WHEN UNC SADLY CROAKS OFF.. HEH HEH HEH
THE HOSPITAL:
ANOTHER VERY DARK NIGHT IN A BIG CITY...
FORTY-SEVEN ARMED ROBBERIES... NINETY-TWO BURGLAR ES... SIXTY-THREE MUGGINGS . AND--
SO YOU AIN'T DEAD, HUH, VESS?!
BRAM
CHOOM
BRRPT
--WHO KNOWS HOW MANY MURDERS.

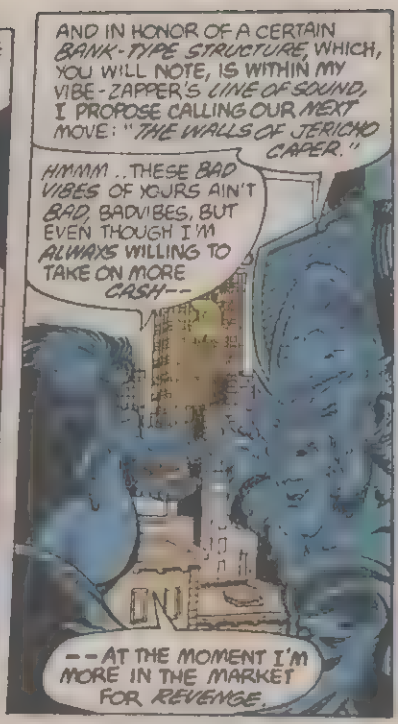
WELL, TRY SOME O' DIS MEDICINE, COPPER!!
BRAM
BRAM
CHOOM
BRAM
BRAM
BRA

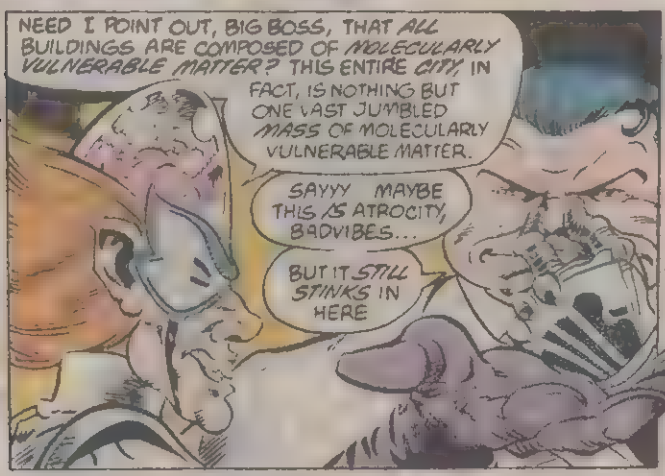
SCON: THEN THE WHOLE STUPID SCHEME BACKFIRED! NOT ONLY IS VESS STILL ALIVE, BUT HE HAS EMERGED INFINITELY STRONGER--
--AND NOW HE'S GOT MY BRUDDER'S STUPID SON!
STILL, BERSERKO IS FAMILY, AND FAMILY DEMANDS REVENGE...
. . AND REVENGE IS AS GOOD AN EXCUSE AS ANY TO GET EVEN RICHER!
TELL THAT BADVIBES FREAK THAT THE TIME HAS COME!
YOUR TRIP WAS A SUCCESS, O'MALLEY, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING BIG IN THE WORKS--AND BERSERKO ISN'T TALKING.
NO CLUES AT ALL, SIR?
WELL, BEFORE KRANIAL'S BLUEPRINTS WERE DESTROYED IN THE EXPLOSION, I RECOGNIZED ROUGHLY WHAT THEY WERE FOR...
I KNOW YOU'RE BEHIND THAT MIRROR VESS, BUT YOU CAN FORGET IT!
I AIN'T SPILLIN' A VOID ABOUT OUR BIG PLAN!!
AND WHAT WERE THEY FOR, MR. VESS?
A GENERATOR, O'MALLEY. AN ULTRA-POWERFUL GENERATOR.
"THAT, O'MALLEY, IS THE JACKPOT QUESTION."
YEESH, IT STINKS IN HERE, BADVIBES...
...SO WHYN'T YOU STOP WASTIN' TIME WITH ARMORED CAR SCHEDULES AND JUST TELL ME WHAT YOU BUILT WITH ALL THAT MONEY I GAVE YOU!
HEE-HEE-- SHEER GENIUS IS WHAT I BUILT!
BUT... A GENERATOR TO SUPPLY POWER FOR WHAT?
PLANT

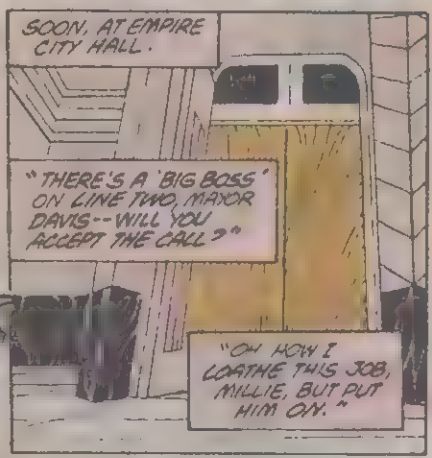
IN FACT, BIG BOSS, THIS GENERATOR GENERATES NOTHING LESS THAN THE FULL GLORY OF MY NAME!
BAG THE EGO, BADVIBES
PYEW!
WHAT DOES THE GENERATOR POWER?
I JUST TOLD YOU -- THE SHEER NEFARIOUS GENIUS OF MY NAME!
BADVIBES GET IT? -- BAD... VIBES.
AHA! IF THE ARMORED CAR IS RUNNING ON SCHEDULE, IT'S TIME FOR OUR DEMONSTRATION!
TAKE YOUR STATION AT THE WINDOW, BIG BOSS --
-- AND DID YOU KNOW THAT SOLDIERS MARCHING IN STEP ACROSS A BRIDGE CAN LITERALLY SHAKE THAT BRIDGE TO PIECES?
UH... NO... NO, I DIDN'T, BADVIBES.
WELL, IT'S TRUE!
IN FACT, ALL MATTER IS MOLECULARLY VULNERABLE TO CERTAIN SUB- OR ULTRA SONIC FREQUENCIES!
YEAH? HOW 'BOUT DAT?
"INDEED -- AND WITH A FEW TWEAKING AND FIDDLINGS, MY VIBE-ZAPPER CAN EMIT THE PRECISE ULTRASONIC VIBRATIONS --"
HEY, JOE, IS THIS AN EARTHQUAKE OR WHAT?!
"-- NECESSARY TO MOLECULARLY DESTABILIZE ANY FORM OF MATTER IN EXISTENCE!"
U-U-U-ULP-P-P-P
"OR, PUTTING IT MORE SIMPLY --

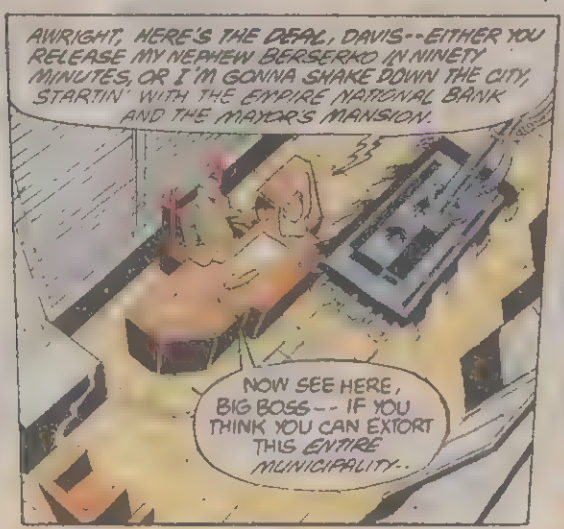
"--IT'LL SHAKE ANYTHING DOWN TO ITSY-BITSY LITTLE PIECES."
YAOWW!

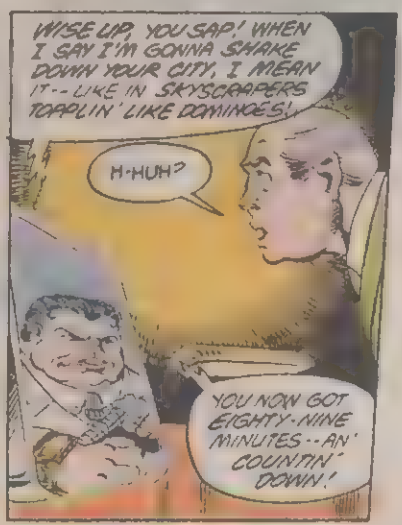
A...A POT-HOLE, JOE?
TRY MAYBE A MOON CRATER.


AND IN HONOR OF A CERTAIN BANK-TYPE STRUCTURE, WHICH, YOU WILL NOTE, IS WITHIN MY VIBE-ZAPPER'S LINE OF SOUND, I PROPOSE CALLING OUR NEXT MOVE: "THE WALLS OF JERICHO CAPER."
HMMM..THESE BAD VIBES OF YOURS AIN'T BAD, BADVIBES, BUT EVEN THOUGH I'M ALWAYS WILLING TO TAKE ON MORE CASH--
--AT THE MOMENT I'M MORE IN THE MARKET FOR REVENGE.


NEED I POINT OUT, BIG BOSS, THAT ALL BUILDINGS ARE COMPOSED OF MOLECULARLY VULNERABLE MATTER? THIS ENTIRE CITY, IN FACT, IS NOTHING BUT ONE VAST JUMBLED MASS OF MOLECULARLY VULNERABLE MATTER.
SAYYY MAYBE THIS IS ATROCITY, BADVIBES...
BUT IT STILL STINKS IN HERE

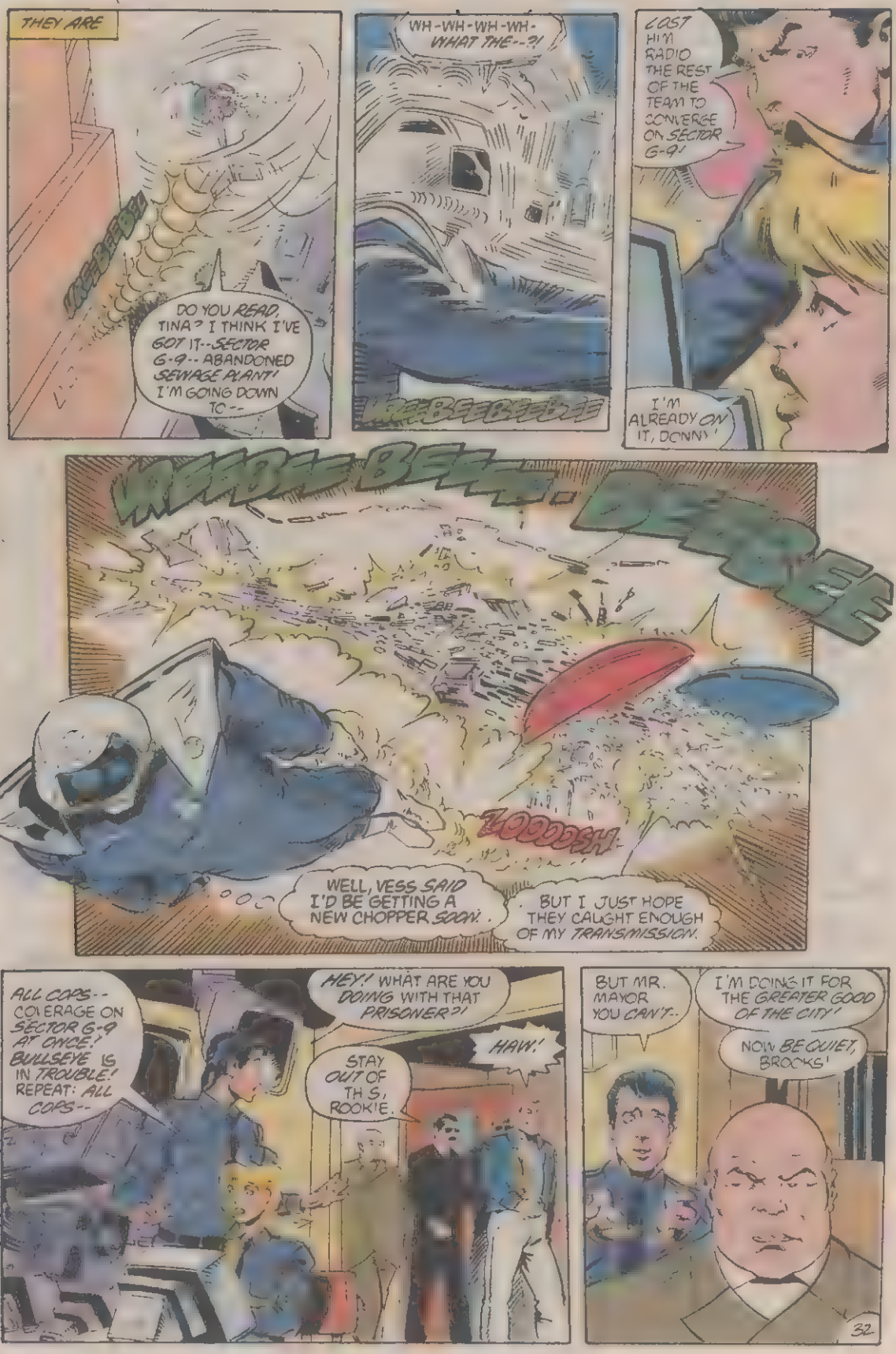

SOON, AT EMPIRE CITY HALL.
"THERE'S A 'BIG BOSS' ON LINE TWO, MAYOR DAVIS--WILL YOU ACCEPT THE CALL?"
"OH HOW I LOATHE THIS JOB, MILLIE, BUT PUT HIM ON."

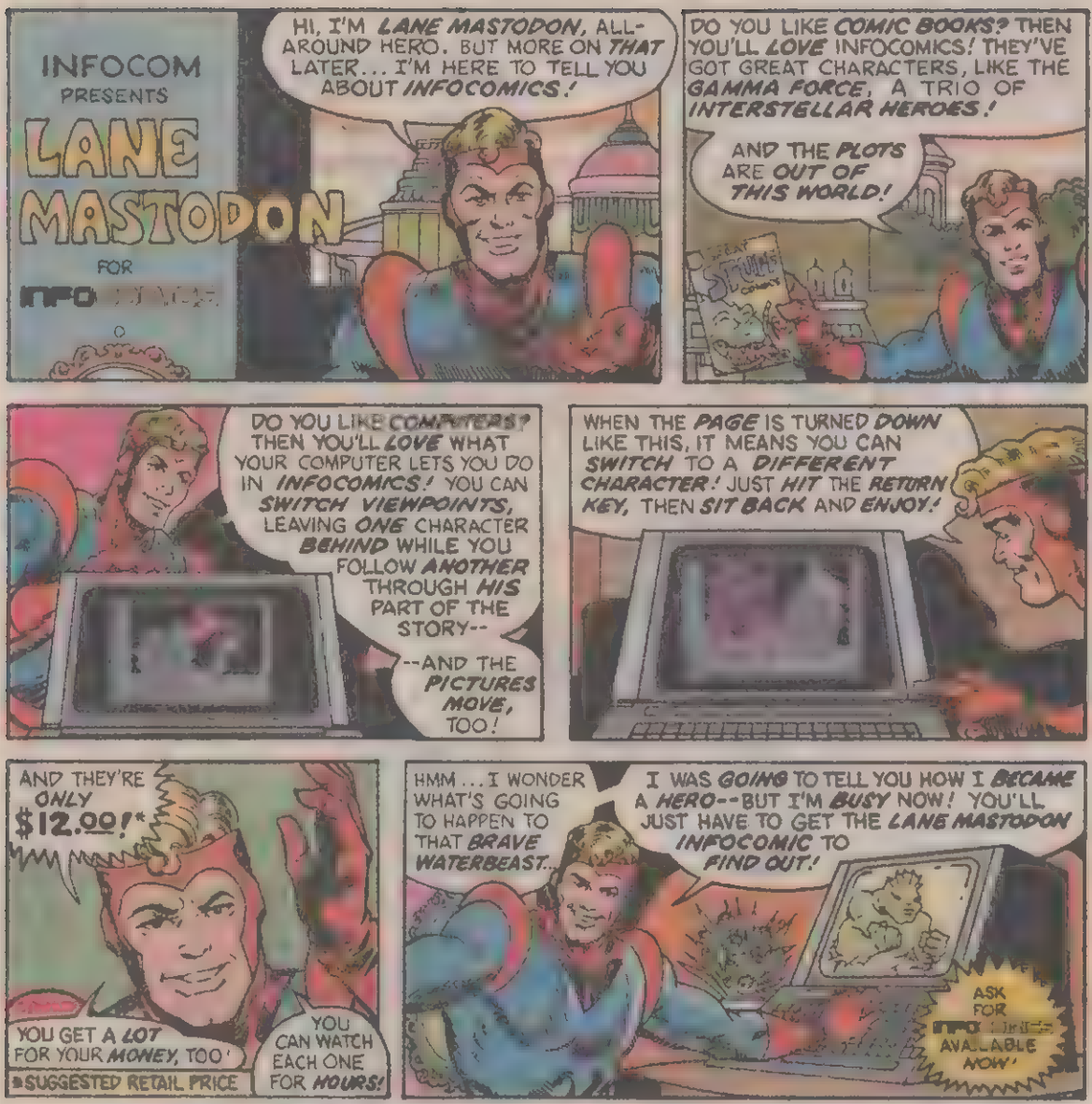

AWRIGHT, HERE'S THE DEAL, DAVIS--EITHER YOU RELEASE MY NEPHEW BERSERKO IN NINETY MINUTES, OR I'M GONNA SHAKE DOWN THE CITY, STARTIN' WITH THE EMPIRE NATIONAL BANK AND THE MAYOR'S MANSION.
NOW SEE HERE, BIG BOSS--IF YOU THINK YOU CAN EXTORT THIS ENTIRE MUNICIPALITY..


WISE UP, YOU SAP! WHEN I SAY I'M GONNA SHAKE DOWN YOUR CITY, I MEAN IT--LIKE IN SKYSCRAPERS TOPPLIN' LIKE DOMINOES!
H-HUH?
YOU NOW GOT EIGHTY-NINE MINUTES--AN' COUNTIN' DOWN!

THE 647TH PRECINCT
--LIKE DOMINOES, HE SAID! CAN HE REALLY DO THAT, VESS?
WITH A BIG ENOUGH GENERATOR, MR MAYOR, ANYTHING'S POSSIBLE.
THEN WHY DID YOU WASTE TIME ASKING ME TO COME HERE? THERE'S LITTLE MORE THAN AN HOUR LEFT! WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING!
EXACTLY WHAT I HAVE IN MIND-- IN HERE, PLEASE
MR MAYOR, I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET THE MEMBERS OF THE NEWLY CREATED CENTRAL ORGANIZATION OF POLICE SPECIALISTS--OR COPS, FOR SHORT.
C-C-COPS?
COPS.
GENTLEMEN-- INTRODUCE YOURSELVES TO THE MAYOR.
HUGH S SIKORSKY-- CODENAMED: BULLSEYE.
STANLEY H BACH-- CODENAMED BARRICADE
COLT HOWARDS-- CODENAMED: MACE
WALKER CALHOUN-- CODENAMED: SUNDOWN.
REX POINTER-- CODENAMED BOWSER.
AND THIS HERE'S MY PAL BLITZ.
DAVID E HARLSON-- CODENAMED: HIGHWAY
AND EMPIRE CITY'S OWN P J. O'MALLEY-- CODENAMED: LONGARM.
30

WE ASK YOUR IMMEDIATE AUTHORIZATION, MR. MAYOR, PLUS THE HOUR -- AN EXEMPLARY FIRST TEST.
UHHH... Y-YOU GOT IT.
THANK YOU, MR. MAYOR. NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE US.
WE HAVE TO SEARCH THE ENTIRE CITY, WITHOUT WARRANTS AND WITHIN AN HOUR, BUT THESE DEVICES JUST MIGHT MAKE IT POSSIBLE. THEY HOME IN ON ANY UNUSUAL VIBRATIONS WITHIN A ONE-MILE RADIUS.
EACH COP GRAB ONE--
"-- AND MOVE OUT!"
WELL, THEY'RE OFF, TINA, AND WE'RE STUCK HERE.
SOMEONE'S GOT TO KEEP THE HOME SOLENOIDS BURNING, DONNY.
YEAH. BUT I BELONG IN A HOT VEHICLE ON THE COLD STREET.
MEANWHILE...
IT'S THE MAYOR, BIG BOSS -- WANTS YOU TO MEET HIM AT THE PRECINCT JAIL ENTRANCE.
WHICH MEANS HE JUST GLOMMED A REPORT ON THAT ARMORED CAR AND KNOWS WE'RE NOT BLUFFING, HEH HEH.
... BUT A FAT LOT OF GOOD IT'LL DO HIM-- OR THE CITY.
EH? VESS' DEVICE IS LOCKING ONTO SOMETHING.
BIP BIP BIP BIP BIP
NOW LET'S JUST HOPE THE VIBRATIONS ARE COMING FROM THE RIGHT GENERATOR..
31


THEY ARE
DO YOU READ, TINA? I THINK I'VE GOT IT--SECTOR G-9--ABANDONED SEWAGE PLANT! I'M GOING DOWN TO--
WH-WH-WH-WH-WHAT THE--?!
LOST HIM! RADIO THE REST OF THE TEAM TO CONVERGE ON SECTOR G-9!
I'M ALREADY ON IT, DONNY!
WELL, VESS SAID I'D BE GETTING A NEW CHOPPER SOON.
BUT I JUST HOPE THEY CAUGHT ENOUGH OF MY TRANSMISSION.
ALL COPS--COVERAGE ON SECTOR G-9 AT ONCE! BULLSEYE IS IN TROUBLE! REPEAT: ALL COPS--
HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THAT PRISONER?!
HAW!
STAY OUT OF THIS, ROOKIE.
BUT MR. MAYOR YOU CAN'T--
I'M DOING IT FOR THE GREATER GOOD OF THE CITY!
NOW BE QUIET, BROOKS!
32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POLICE HEADQUARTERS
ALL RIGHT, BIG BOSS, WE'RE LETTING YOUR NEPHEW BERSERKO GO--
--AND IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU AND THIS CITY, NOW THAT WE'VE MET YOUR DEMAND, YOU'LL CALL OFF THE THREAT!
YO, UNC-- YA SPRUNG ME!
THANKS FOR THE CIVIC-MINDED ADVICE, MAYOR, BUT IF YOUSE'LL EXCUSE ME, I JUST PUSHED UP MY BUSINESS MEETING--
--WITH A CERTAIN CRUMBLING BANK, - HAR HAR HAR!
EEP?
NOW THE COPS DON'T EVEN HAVE THE FULL HOUR DEADLINE--!
WE'RE IN THE CLEAR, BADLIBES, SO START HITTIN' THE MATTER OF DAT BANK.
YEAH, AN' BUST A FEW BRICKS FOR ME.
UH, AS SOON AS I CAN GET TO IT, BIG BOSS...
--BUT RIGHT NOW I'M A WEE BIT BUSY TRYING TO OSCILLATE THE PRECISELY PROPER ULTRA-SONIC VIBRATIONAL FREQUENCY FOR--
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
"--SHAKING APART ONE STUBBORN COP'S FLESH AND BONES!"

SORRY ABOUT THAT DISINTEGRATED CHOPPER, AGENT VESS...
YOU DID YOUR JOB, JETSTREAM, SIMPLY BY LOCATING THIS BUNKER..
BRAM
BRAM
SPAK
BZANG
KA-BOOM
...BUT IT LOOKS LIKE GETTING INTO IT IS GOING TO BE A LOT HARDER FOR THE REST OF US!
KEEP BLASTING, MACE, UNTIL--
LOOK OUT!!
VREEB VREEB VREEB
WHOOSH
SO MUCH FOR OUR COVER.
HAHAHA! THAT OUGHT TO HOLD THEM-- AND NOW FOR THE BANK! KRUSHER, GUARD THE DOOR IN CASE THEY--
LET 'EM COME, BADVIBES!
BACK AT THE PRECINCT.
DONNY! WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU--
LISTEN, TINA, I KNOW IT'S AGAINST REGS, BUT THIS IS AN EMERGENCY!
YOU'VE GOTTA BREAK THE REQUISITION LOCK-CODE AND FREE AN ARMORED ASSAULT VEHICLE!
BUT--
AND THEN YOU'VE GOTTA INVADE THE ANCIENT FILES OF THE MUNICIPAL DATA-NET-- AND PUNCH UP A BLUEPRINT OF THAT SEWAGE BUNKER BEFORE I REACH THE SCENE.
AND THANKS, TINA
34

VREEE VREEE VREEE VREEE
THAT SHRILL HUMMING AGAIN-- AND THE NOZZLE-ZAPPER AIMED HIGHER NOW--AT... OH, NO.. AT EMPIRE NATIONAL BANK!
HIGHWAY--! WHERE YUH GOIN', PARDNER?
THESE CROOKS ARE CONCERNED ONLY WITH MONEY, SUNDOWN--
"--BUT I'M THINKING ABOUT THE PEOPLE IN THAT BANK...
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK

DONNY, DO YOU READ?
YEAH, TINA, I'M ALMOST THERE! GOT THAT BLUEPRINT YET?
ROGER-- BUT IT LOOKS LIKE A VERY TOUGH NUT TO CRACK, DONNY
THE ENTIRE BUNKER IS STEEL-REINFORCED CONCRETE-- DESIGNED TO WITHSTAND IMPACT VELOCITIES UP TO EIGHTY-FIVE MILES PER HOUR!
THEN I GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO...
...CRANK HER UP...
...TO NINETY!
WHAT THE--?! WHO'S THAT?!
KRAOOM
SCATTER!!
SKRAASH
KROOOM
POLICE
"WHOEVER HE IS, HE JUST GAVE US AN OPENING..."
36

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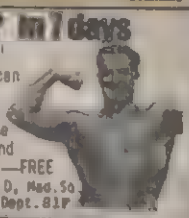

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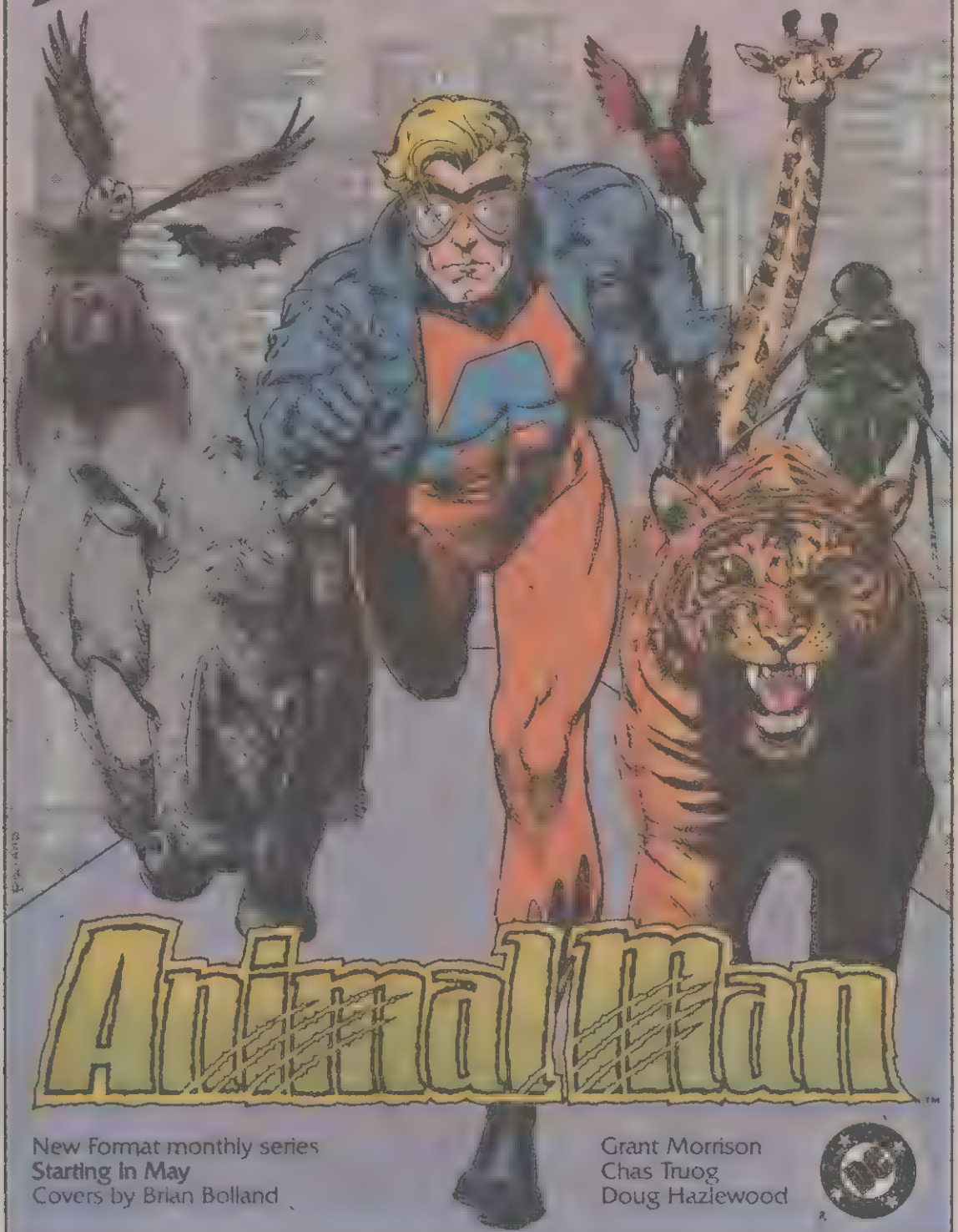

Animal Man

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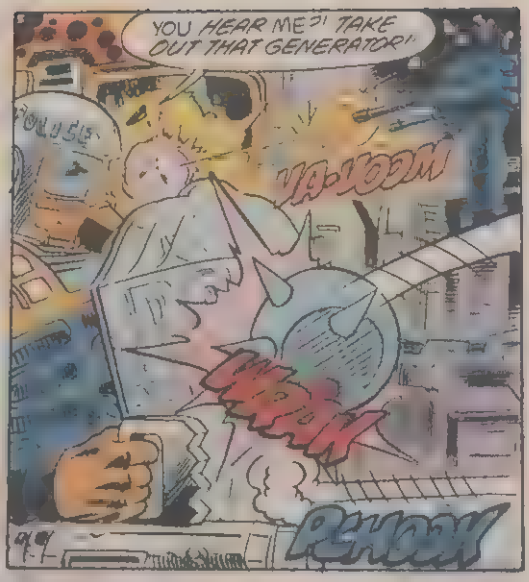
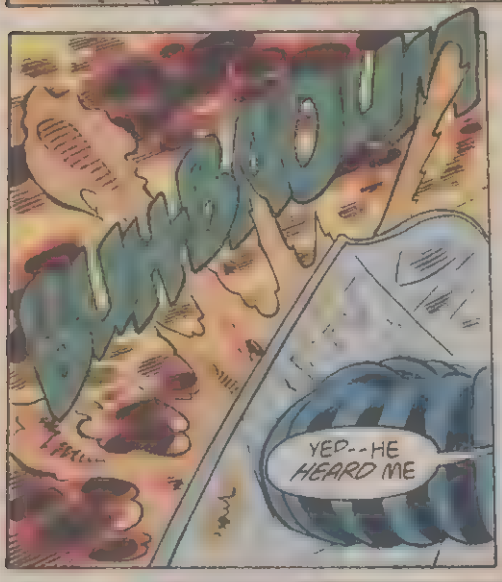
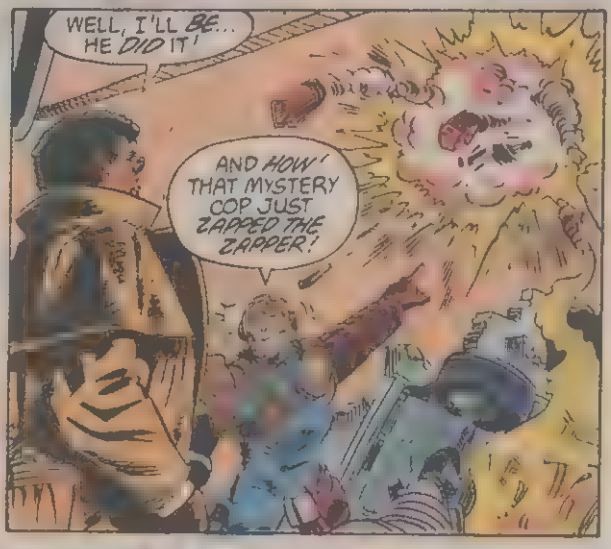
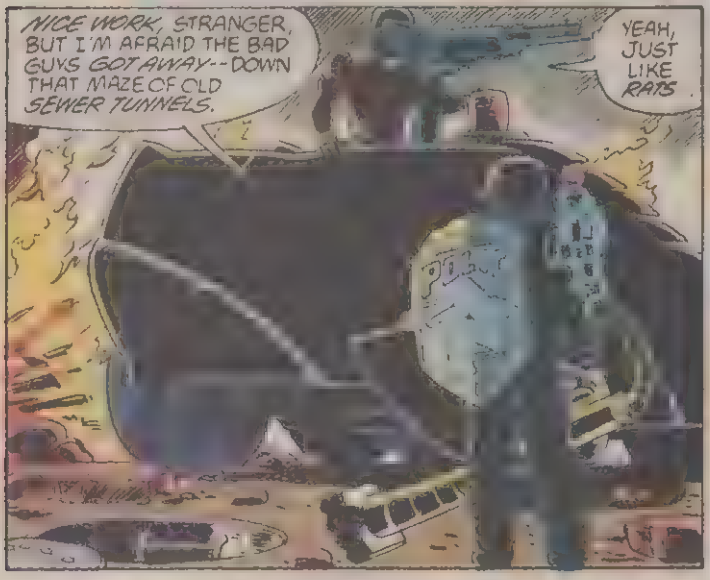
I'M GOING IN!
HEY-- YOU IN THE ASSAULT VEHICLE-- HIT THE GENERATOR!
UHN--!


YOU HEAR ME?! TAKE OUT THAT GENERATOR!
POLICE
WHOOM
PKHOOK


YEP--HE HEARD ME


WELL, I'LL BE... HE DID IT!
AND HOW! THAT MYSTERY COP JUST ZAPPED THE ZAPPER!


NICE WORK, STRANGER, BUT I'M AFRAID THE BAD GUYS GOT AWAY--DOWN THAT MAZE OF OLD SEWER TUNNELS.
YEAH, JUST LIKE RATS.

BUT I'M NOT A STRANGER, BARRICADE-- THE NAME'S DONNY BROOKS, AND WE MET BACK AT THE PRECINCT... NOT THAT YOU MUCH NOTICED A ROOKIE LIKE ME.
BUT GIVE ME TIME--
--AND YOU WILL.

LATER, BACK AT THE PRECINCT
THE BANK SUSTAINED SEVERE DAMAGE, COPS, AND OUR FIRST TEST WASN'T VERY PRETTY
BUT WE DID SAVE THE DAY-- AND BES DES, BIG BOSS JUMPED THE GUN ON THE DEADLINE!
BROOKS IS QUITE RIGHT AFTER I RELEASED BERSERKO, BIG BOSS HAD NO INCENTIVE TO WAIT THE FULL HOUR
IF YOU'LL TOLERATE SOME ADVICE, MR MAYOR...
NEVER TRUST THE HONOR OF A DISHONEST MAN-- ESPECIALLY NOT THE BIG BOSS
YES, WELL.. I BELIEVE I'VE LEARNED MY LESSON.
AND PERHAPS COPS HAS PASSED ITS BAPTISM OF FIRE...
...BUT IT OCCURS TO ME THAT THE TEAM IS NOT QUITE COMPLETE!
HUH? WHAT DOES HE MEAN, TINA?
I I DON'T KNOW, DONNY...
AND SO, FOR THEIR COURAGE AND RESOURCEFULNESS ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY--
-- I HEREBY APPOINT DONNY BROOKS AND TINA CASSIDY FULL-FLEDGED MEMBERS OF COPS, HENCEFORTH CODENAMED HARDTOP AND MAINFRAME.
WUH-WUH-WUH-WOWWW!
TH-THANK YOU, SIR, BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU? DON'T YOU NEED A CODE-NAME?
JUST WHAT I WAS THINKING, MR VESS... AND HOW ABOUT...
"...BULLETPROOF"?
"BULLETPROOF".. YES, I LIKE IT...
C.O.P.S.
641
AND FIRST CASE... CLOSED
NEXT ISSUE: THE CROOKS STRIKE BACK, ONLY TO BE MET BY-- THE LONG CUFF OF THE LAW!
THE END

NEXT:

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